

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A bacteria growth carrier including a trace element ~~characterized that an element~~ wherein a polymer product obtained by including a trace element or the trace element and an inorganic nutrient salt for growth of bacteria in a synthetic or natural polymeric material is ~~laminated by being held with~~ held between layers of a synthetic or natural inorganic porous material.

2. (Original) The bacteria growth carrier as claimed in claim 1, which is a particulate, cylindrical or plate-like carrier.

3. (Original) The bacteria growth carrier as claimed in claim 1, which has a honeycomb structure.